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Motorists urged to be courteous

By EILEEN GODIN
Dallas Post Correspondent

Which goes first - the vehicle, pedestrians or bicyclists?

As the Anthracite Scenic Trail Association's Back Mountain Trail system becomes more popular, more pedestrians and cyclists are trying to cross busy roads and travel on others to reach the next section of trail.

Periodic yellow diamond-shaped signs with a picture of a bicycle on them saying "Share the Road" have caused a bit of confusion for one Shavertown resident.

Mark Albrecht, a member of the association who lives on North Lehigh Street, enjoys walking along his road but has had several close brushes with oncoming traffic.

"Many times pedestrians get brushed off the side of the road by vehicles," Albrecht said.

Taking his concern of vehicles not sharing the road with walkers to the previous Kingston Township supervisors meeting, Albrecht was told by Police Chief James Balavage that the signs refer only to vehicles sharing the road with bicyclists.

Albrecht said he was told pedestrians should yield to vehicles and cyclists and cyclists should be treated with the same respect as a vehicle by traffic and pedestrians.

Balavage said North Lehigh Street does not have a sidewalk or a shoulder off the road to walk on. He said legal procedure states pedestrians must stay on the left side of the road, facing oncoming traffic and yield to vehicles and bicyclists.

He specified that vehicles should only yield to pedestrians when they are in a crosswalk unless the crosswalk has a traffic control signal at which time pedestrians need to wait for the walk signal before crossing.

"On a road like North Lehigh Street, pedestrians could walk on the edge of the road but should step off the road when a car approaches," Balavage said.

Albrecht said most vehicles are considerate and move toward the middle of the road to give walkers some space. Since drivers legally should not cross a double yellow line, Albrecht hoped to be able to break the double yellow line into dashes, allowing cars to straddle it to go around a pedestrian.

This idea could create speeding and passing problems along this straight stretch, Albrecht concluded. Other ideas of creating a sidewalk or bike lane through eminent domain cost too much money to accomplish, Balavage said.

See MOTORISTS, Page 12

BABY, IT'S HOT OUT HERE!



Katarina Banks, of Dallas, emerges cooled off from her swim in the pool at Newberry Estate in Dallas.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Back Mountain residents do anything possible to keep cool

With temperatures soaring above 90 degree for five consecutive days last week, the Back Mountain saw a heat wave like it hasn't seen in nine years. From swimming to drinking water to finding shade, residents found many ways to escape the heat.



Pierce Donovan, of Dallas, a volunteer setting up the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction grounds, pauses for a water break.



The Zeiss and Karcutskie families, of Dallas, enjoy poolside pleasures at Newberry Estate.

RIGHT PHOTO: Fairbanks, a Golden Retriever owned by Yvonne Mould, of Idetown, swims happily at Harveys Lake.

LOWER RIGHT PHOTO: Dallas residents Kailey Peters and Kelsey Hughes-Blaum share a picnic at a Harveys Lake dock as speedboats zoom by.



Nine-year-old Jessica Furjanic, of Harveys Lake, very much enjoys the first day on her uncle Jonathan's boat.

